

DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST

Provided by Dr. Katie McKnight's Engaging Learners



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Dr. Katie McKnight*

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DIFFERENTIATED READING LIST EXAMPLES

GRADE 8

Center(s)

Reading Together

Explanation of Reading Lists

Literacy and Learning Centers require you to divide your students into small groups. I recommend that you group students not based on ability, but based on the texts they choose. In other words, each student selects the text that most interests him/her, and is placed in a group with the other students who picked the same text. This doesn't mean anything goes! The teacher or curriculum director should supply a selection of texts that all address the same basic literary themes, cover the same content, or address the same essential question.

It's ok to start small. Work on adding one or two reading lists every year.

You'll see that giving students a choice in what to read brings about significant gains in their engagement, productivity, and growth. But maybe the greatest advantage of giving students a choice of reading material, is that students of varied ability levels and interests *all* have an opportunity to engage with their reading.

The **Text Complexity Model** has three equal components. Choosing which texts to include in your class reading lists means *you must do more than consider quantitative measures!*

The three components to consider are:

1. Quantitative Measures.

These factors are difficult or impossible for a person to evaluate efficiently so they are typically measured by computer software. Examples of quantitative measures include students' standardized test scores and a books' assigned Lexile scores.

2. Qualitative Dimensions.

These characteristics must be evaluated by a teacher. They include considering levels of meaning (for literary texts) or purpose (for informational texts), as well as structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands.

3. Reader and Task Considerations.

This component is best evaluated by a teacher like you, who understands his or her students. It requires assessing the reader's motivation, knowledge, and experiences, as well as the assessing the purpose and complexity of a text.

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It helps to review examples of reading lists that other teachers have used effectively. Please use these examples as inspiration. Feel free to borrow what works and adapt as necessary to suit your needs and the needs of your students.

The book lists below represent a selection of fictional and non-fictional texts that are suitable for use with the Literacy and Learning Center model. The works listed were researched, vetted and chosen by the Chapters Group, a leading provider of hardcover and paperback literature as well as textbooks. More selections and materials are available at the **Chapters Group website at chaptersgroup.com**.

Explore the EngagingLearners.com website for other resources about differentiated reading (webinars, tips, etc.) to help you create your own reading lists.

Remember, coming up with reading lists is an on-going process. Even after you find a “perfect” booklist, realize that it may not be perfect forever. As you find new titles, as your school’s curriculum changes, and as student interests evolve, it’s likely you’ll want to make revisions and adjustments.

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Eighth Grade <i>Topic: Tales and Myths Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How do mythic heroes overcome (or fail to overcome) their flaws?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
6th-12th grade	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll
6th-9th grade	Another Pan	Daniel Nayeri and Dina Nayeri
5th-8th grade	Curse of the Thirteenth Fey: The True Tale of Sleeping Beauty	Jane Yolen
8th-12th grade	Everneath	Brodi Ashton
7th-10th grade	Greek Myths	Olivia Coolidge
5th-9th grade	The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan
6th-10th grade	Romiette and Julio	Sharon M. Draper
5th-9th grade	The Red Pyramid	Rick Riordan
5th-8th grade	Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt

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Eighth Grade <i>Topic: Making Decisions Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: When can we be sure whether we've made the right choice?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
4th-8th grade	Baseball in April and Other Stories	Gary Soto
5th-8th grade	Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie	Jordan Sonnenblick
6th-9th grade	Freak the Mighty	Rodman Philbrick
8th-12th grade	Game	Walter Dean Myers
6th-12th grade	The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros
7th-12th grade	If You Come Softly	Jacqueline Woodson
7th-12th grade	Lord of the Flies	William Golding
7th-12th grade	Matched	Ally Condie
3rd-8th grade	The Big Field	Mike Lupica
7th-10th grade	The Giver	Lois Lowry
7th-10th grade	The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton
8th-10th grade	Will Grayson, Will Grayson	John Green, David Levithan

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Eighth Grade		
<i>Topic: Nation of Heroes Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What is the legacy of our country?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
6th-10th grade	50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet	Dennis Denenberg
5th-10th grade	5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery	Dennis Fradin and Judith Fradin
7th-19th grade	The American Heritage Book of Great American Speeches for Young People	Suzanne McIntire
4th-8th grade	Choosing Courage	Peter Collier
5th-8th grade	Frederick Douglass: From Slavery to Statesman	Henry Elliot
6th-8th grade	Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott	Russell Freedman
6th-9th grade	George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War	Thomas B. Allen
4th-8th grade	Hero of the High Seas: John Paul Jones and the American Revolution	Michael Cooper
5th-8th grade	Lincoln's Grave Robbers	Steve Sheinkin
4th-8th grade	Mary on Horseback	Rosemary Wells
3rd-8th grade	Political Leaders	Adam Sutherland
3rd-8th grade	Portraits of African-American Heroes	Tanya Bolden
7th-12th grade	Be a Changemaker: How to Start Something That Matters	Laurie Ann Thompson
8th-12th grade	Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II	Mitchell Zuckoff

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Eighth Grade <i>Topic: Famous People Non-Fiction</i>		
Essential Question: What experiences does a great leader need to have?		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
5th-12th grade	Amelia Earhart	Tanya Lee Stone
3rd-8th grade	John Fitzgerald Kennedy: America's Youngest President	Lucy Post Frisbee
5th-8th grade	Elie Wiesel: Holocaust Survivor and Messenger for Humanity	Diane Dakers
4th-8th grade	Gandhi: The Young Protestor Who Founded A Nation	Philip Wilkinson
5th-8th grade	Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad	Patricia Lantier
5th-10th grade	Helen Keller: A Photographic Story of a Life	Leslie Garrett
4th-8th grade	Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America	Sharon Robinson
3rd-8th grade	Who Was Rachel Carson	Sarah Fabiny
3rd-8th grade	You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?	Jean Fritz

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Eighth Grade <i>Topic: Historical Fiction</i>		
Essential Question: What can we learn from the accomplishments and setbacks of the past?		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
7th-10th grade	A Death-Struck Year	Makiia Lucier
5th-9th grade	Al Capone Does My Shirts	Gennifer Choldenko
7th-12th grade	Between Shades of Gray	Ruta Sepetys
7th-12th grade	Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two	Joseph Bruchac
4th-8th grade	Dragonwings	Laurence Yep
5th-8th grade	Forge	Laurie Halse Anderson
3rd-8th grade	Heroes Don't Run: A Novel of the Pacific War	Harry Mazer
5th-9th grade	Lyddie	Katherine Paterson
6th-8th grade	Out Of The Dust	Karen Hesse
4th-8th grade	Shades of Gray	Carolyn Reeder
4th-8th grade	The Birchbark House	Louise Erdrich
7th-10th grade	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	John Boyne

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Eighth Grade <i>Topic: American Poetry</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How does the culture of the U.S.A. influence our greatest poets?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
8th-12th grade	101 Great American Poems	The American Poetry and Literacy Project
4th-8th grade	Hate That Cat	Sharon Creech
7th-12th grade	I Am the Darker Brother: An Anthology of Modern Poems by African Americans	ed. Arnold Adoff
7th-12th grade	I'm Nobody! Who Are You?	Emily Dickinson
4th-8th grade	Love That Dog	Sharon Creech
7th-12th grade	More Than Friends: Poems from Him and Her	Sara Holbrook, Allan Wolf
7th-12th grade	Robert Frost's Poems	Robert Frost
7th-12th grade	Selected Poems of E.E. Cummings	E.E. Cummings
7th-12th grade	Selected Poems of Langston Hughes	Langston Hughes

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Eighth Grade		
<i>Topic: Space & Diseases Non-Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: What is the role of science in the 21st century?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
6th-10th grade	An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793	Jim Murphy
3rd-8th grade	Comets, Asteroids and Meteors	Stuart Atkinson
6th-9th grade	Health and Disease: Investigating a TB Outbreak	Richard Spilsbury
5th-8th grade	Medieval Medicine and the Plague	Lynne Elliott
5th-8th grade	Outbreak! Plagues That Changed History	Bryn Barnard
3rd-8th grade	Miraculous Medicines (Science Solves It)	Helene Boudreau
5th-8th grade	Space, Stars, and the Beginning of Time: What the Hubble Telescope Saw	Elaine Scott
6th-8th grade	Superbugs	John DiConsiglio
3rd-8th grade	The Surprising World of Bacteria with Max Axiom, Super Scientist	Agnieszka Biskup

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Eighth Grade <i>Topic: Scientific Advances</i>		
Essential Question: How can we prepare for all the consequences of scientific discoveries?		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
4th-8th grade	1,000 Inventions and Discoveries	DK
3rd-8th grade	Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine	Katherine Krohn
3rd-8th grade	Louis Pasteur and Pasteurization	National Geographic Learning
5th-8th grade	Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women	Catherine Thimmesch
5th-9th grade	Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet	Harriet Rohmer
7th-12th grade	How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World	Steven Johnson
3rd-8th grade	Robots at Your Service: From the Factory to Your Home	Kathryn Clay
7th-12th grade	The Next Big Thing: A History of the Boom-or-Bust Moments That Shaped the Modern World	Richard Faulk
3rd-8th grade	The Printing Press	Richard Spilsbury
3rd-8th grade	The Radio	Richard Spilsbury
3rd-8th grade	The Telephone	Richard Spilsbury
5th-9th grade	Frozen in Time: Clarence Birdseye's Outrageous Idea About Frozen Food	Mark Kurlansky
4th-8th grade	The Wildlife Detectives: How Forensic Scientists Fight Crimes Against Nature	Donna M. Jackson

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Eighth Grade <i>Topic: Courage Fiction</i>		
<i>Essential Question: How do brave people overcome their fears?</i>		
<i>Text Complexity</i>	<i>Book Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
8th-12th grade	1984	George Orwell
7th-10th grade	American Born Chinese	Gene Luen Yang
3rd-8th grade	Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis
6th-10th grade	Chains	Laurie Halse Anderson
7th-9th grade	Code Name Verity	Elizabeth Wein
6th-9th grade	Freedom Crossing	Margaret Goff Clark
7th-10th grade	The Legend of Sleepy Hollow	Blake Hoena and Washington Irving
5th-9th grade	The Call of the Wild	Jack London
7th-12th grade	Uglies	Scott Westerfeld